



Youth Giving Circles

A step-by-step guide to starting and leading your own youth giving circle—complete with a ready-to-go meeting curriculum.

GI  **ING**
TUESDAY

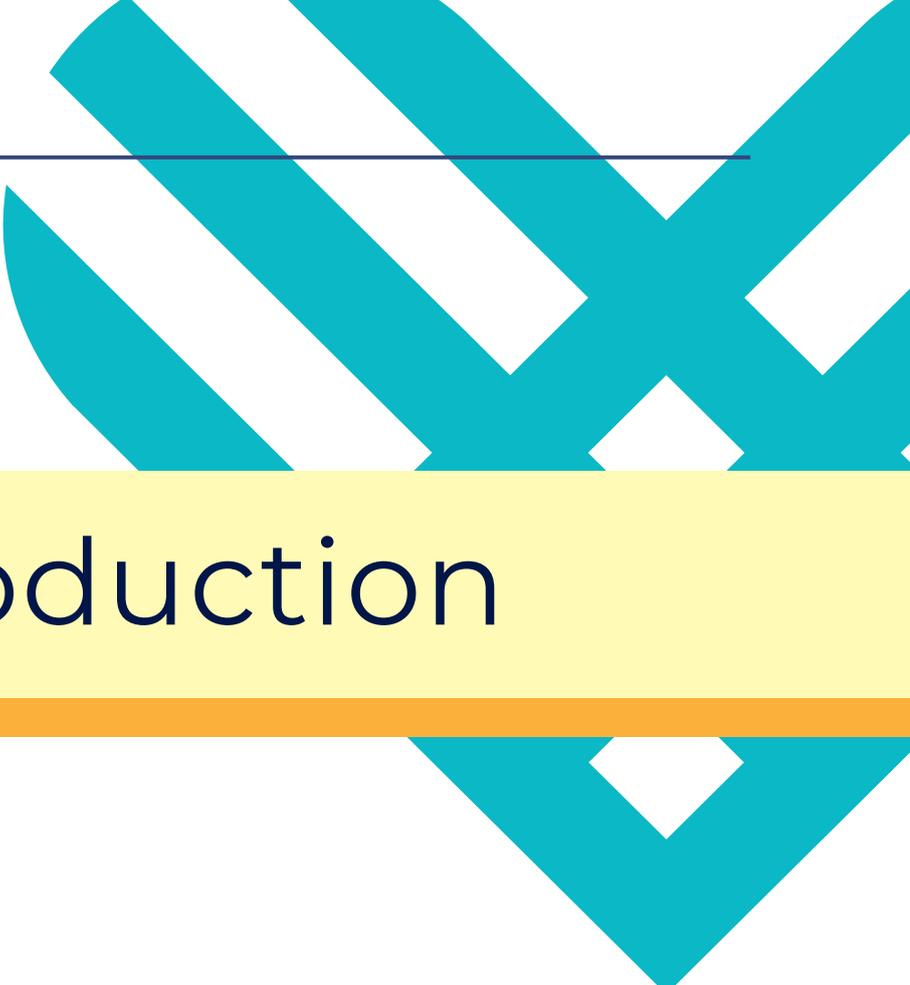
GI  **ING TUESDAY**
SPARK





Contents

Introduction	03
What is a Giving Circle?	04
Overview	05
Preparation	06
Leading	13
Action Items	18
Curriculum	19
You Did It!	38



Introduction

★ *Welcome!*

We're so excited that you want to lead a youth giving circle! Giving circles are a powerful way to build community, spark generosity, and make an impact! This guide will take you through every step of the process of launching and running a youth giving circle. It's designed specifically for youth, with a flexible curriculum and tools that can be adapted to fit your group's unique needs and goals.

Whether you're a young person looking to start a giving circle with your peers or an adult supporting youth in leading one, this guide is for you.

Let's get started...



What is a Giving Circle?

You care about making a difference in your community—but sometimes it feels like the amount you can donate just isn't enough to make an impact, right? We get it! Every gift matters, no matter the size—but what if you could team up with others to make an even bigger impact? That's where giving circles come in.

A giving circle is a group of people who come together, talk about the causes they care about, and pool their money to make a bigger donation—together. Let's say you've saved up \$20 to give to your favorite charity. That's awesome. Now imagine if you got 9 friends to do the same. That's \$200 you can donate as a group—a way bigger impact than any of you could make alone! That's the idea of a giving circle.

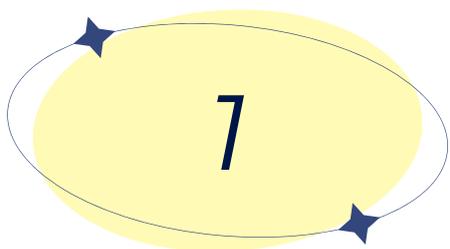
But giving circles aren't just about money. They're also about conversation, connection, and learning. You'll explore what generosity means to you, discover new causes, and build something meaningful with your peers.

Sound good?

Let's get to planning.

Overview

Before we talk about the details, let's look at the overall structure of running a giving circle.



Plan the logistics!

Decide who is going to be in your giving circle, when and where you are going to meet, and what your goals are.



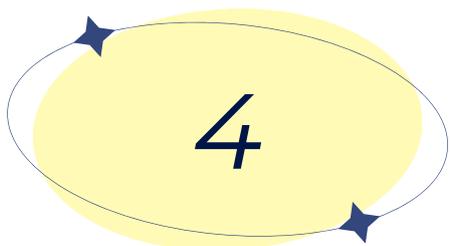
Circle Up!

Lead your giving circle through four meetings where you will talk about generosity, values, causes you care about, and which organization you want to support.



Make an Impact!

Together your giving circle will select one organization to give your collective donation to.



Keep it Going!

The fun doesn't have to stop here. You can host another giving circle or plan other ways to give back with your giving circle to continue your generous impact!

Your 'Why'

As a leader, part of your role will be helping others understand what a giving circle is and why they should join yours. But before you start inviting people to participate, it's important to get clear on something: Why do YOU want to start a giving circle?

There are lots of great reasons to run one—from making a bigger impact or building community, to learning more about causes you care about. Which of these matter most to you? What's driving you to lead? When you know your 'why,' it will be easier to inspire others to join you.

Use this list to help you reflect on your 'why.' Choose 2–3 reasons that feel most meaningful to you—or add your own!

My goal with this giving circle is to...

- Show other young people that they have the power to make a difference
- Amplify my impact by pooling donations with others
- Create positive change in my community
- Learn about new causes, nonprofits, and ways to help
- Explore and express shared values with my group
- Respond to current events
- Bring together people with different backgrounds and perspectives
- Grow my leadership skills
- Practice generosity in a meaningful and creative way
- Other: _____



Assemble Your Team



Teamwork makes the dream work! You don't have to run a giving circle by yourself. Think about inviting a co-leader to join you. They can help with planning, recruiting participants, and leading meetings. Having an adult involved can also be a big help, especially when it comes to managing funds, organizing logistics, or offering guidance along the way.

For Adults: If you are an adult planning to run a youth giving circle, we highly encourage you to identify 1-2 young people to be the leaders. Your role as a supporter is important, but the peer-to-peer learning that happens when youth lead is truly invaluable. It's a fantastic leadership opportunity, and young leaders will bring the best ideas for shaping the curriculum and activities to fit what their peers really want to explore and discuss.



Meeting Location

Now it's time to figure out the logistics of your giving circle—starting with where and how you want to meet. Do you want your meetings to be in-person, virtual, or a mix of both? Each option has its own benefits and considerations to make when planning.

	In-Person	Virtual
BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to build trust and group connection • Great for hands-on activities and group discussions • Fewer tech issues or distractions • Allows for group volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets participants join from anywhere—perfect if your group is spread out • Easier to schedule around other commitments • No need for a physical space or transportation • Digital tools can make collaboration easier
CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are you going to meet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We recommend a public space such as a library or school • Is your meeting location accessible for people to get to? • Do you need any materials? • Do you want to provide drinks or snacks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What platform are you going to meet on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Make sure your meeting license will allow for 1 hour meetings • Do you need other digital tools or platforms for the meetings? • Do your participants have access to technology and strong internet?

Schedule and Materials

Giving circles can look a lot of different ways. Some happen in a single session, others meet regularly over time. This guide includes a flexible curriculum designed for giving circles that meet four times—a structure we recommend for youth groups. **Meeting four times gives participants the chance to build relationships, explore the meaning of generosity and philanthropy, and have meaningful conversations** before deciding where to give their pooled donation.

We suggest spacing the meetings 1-2 weeks apart to give time for reflection between sessions while still keeping the energy going. Each meeting is designed to last about one hour, but feel free to adjust the length based on your group's needs—longer sessions can allow for deeper discussion or additional activities.

Each session in the curriculum includes a recommended materials list, so be sure to review it ahead of time. This will help you prepare, make any needed adjustments, and ensure your meetings run smoothly.



Donation Plan

Every giving circle involves a pooled donation, which means each member contributes something toward a shared gift. While giving circles don't have to be only about money (your group could decide to pool time, skills, or donated items instead), for the sake of this guide we'll focus on monetary giving. As a leader, part of your job is to decide how much each person will contribute and how you'll collect the donations.

There are several ways to approach setting the contribution amount:

- **Set a fixed amount:** Everyone is asked to donate the same amount (e.g., \$10 each).
- **Suggest a minimum:** Set a starting amount and let members know they're welcome to give more if they choose.
- **Offer a range:** Give a suggested range (e.g., \$5–\$20) and let members choose what feels right for them.
- **Keep it flexible and confidential:** Let each member give what they're comfortable with privately, and only share the total pooled amount with the group.

Once you've decided how contributions will work, you'll also need a collection plan. You should take the lead on collecting donations and making the final gift on behalf of the group. Some options include:

- Collecting cash or checks at a meeting
- Using a secure payment app (with adult support, if needed)
- Mailing a group donation to the organization together

Before you invite people to join your giving circle, make sure you've clearly decided:

- How much participants will be asked to give
- How the money will be collected
- How the final donation will be made

This helps everyone know what to expect—and feel confident about participating.

Gather the Group

It's time to bring your giving circle to life by inviting participants to join! You get to decide how many people you want in your group—but we recommend aiming for 8–14 people. That's usually the sweet spot: big enough for a variety of perspectives, but small enough that everyone can actively participate and be heard. If you end up with fewer than 8 or more than 14, that's totally fine! You may just want to adjust some activities in the curriculum to make sure they work well for your group size.

Your giving circle can include whoever you want—friends, classmates, teammates, neighbors, or even people you've never met before. You can build a group of people who share common interests, or intentionally bring together a more diverse mix—it's up to you!

Here are some ideas of where to find participants:

- School: advertise on a bulletin board, newsletter, during school announcements, etc.
- Sports teams
- Faith-based organizations
- Clubs or student groups
- After-school programs
- Campus or community events
- Student spaces: student union, community center, etc.
- Neighbors
- Social media

Use this space to brainstorm names of people you want to reach out to or places you plan to advertise your giving circle.

• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____



When you invite people to join your giving circle, make sure they know exactly what to expect. Here's what being part of the circle involves:

- Attending 4 meetings
- Learning about generosity, collective giving, and different ways to make a difference
- Researching and presenting a nonprofit they care about to the group
- Contributing money to a shared donation fund
- Helping decide where the group's donation will go

Once you've explained the opportunity, let them know how to sign up and stay connected. Will you use email, text, WhatsApp, GroupMe, or something else? Choose the best way to keep in touch—and don't forget to collect their contact info so you can keep everyone in the loop!

Group Facilitation

You've set the dates, times, and location—now it's time for the best part: **leading your giving circle!** Before your first meeting, we recommend sending out the full meeting schedule to your participants. Don't forget to send reminders before each session—whether through text, email, calendar invites, or group chats. Use whatever system works best for you and your group to keep everyone on track.

Your Role as a Facilitator

As the leader of your giving circle, you're also the facilitator—the person who helps guide the group through meaningful conversations and activities. Don't worry, this doesn't mean you have to do all the talking. In fact, a great facilitator does more listening than speaking! Here's what you will do as the facilitator:

- Guide the conversation, don't dominate it. Your job is to keep things flowing—not to lead every discussion. Create space for others to speak and make sure everyone feels welcome.
- Ask thoughtful questions. Use open-ended questions to spark reflection, discussion, and curiosity.
- Listen actively and summarize key ideas. Help the group stay focused by reflecting back what you hear and connecting ideas.
- Keep track of time. Make sure you move through the agenda and wrap up on time.
- Encourage full participation. Invite quieter voices to share their thoughts, and gently balance out more talkative members so everyone gets a chance to contribute.
- Honor everyone's generosity journey. Some people may be totally new to giving, while others might already be deeply involved. Celebrate all experiences and make sure your group feels inclusive and welcoming to everyone.

Facilitating might sound like a big responsibility, but don't stress—it's really just about creating a safe space for a great conversation. You've got this!



Before you jump into leading your first meeting, take a few moments to reflect on your role and how you want to show up for your group.

Finish the following sentences in your own words:

1. As a facilitator, I want my group to feel...

2. One strength I bring to this role is...

3. One thing I'm excited (or nervous) about is...

4. A goal I have for myself as a facilitator is...

What will you talk about?

We've created a full curriculum to guide your giving circle through each of the four meetings. It includes everything you need: discussion topics, activities, prompts, and reflection questions. But here's the best part: it's just a guide.

Feel free to make it your own! Add icebreakers, personal stories, games, or examples from your community to make it more engaging and relevant for your group. You're the leader—and we trust you to bring the energy, creativity, and care that will make your giving circle a success.

You can find the full curriculum in the 'Curriculum' section of this guide.



Make your Impact

At the end of your final giving circle meeting, your group will have decided which organization you want to support. Now it's time to **send your pooled donation!**

Use the donation method you agreed on (online, by check, or another platform), and whenever possible, we recommend making the donation together as a group—either during your final meeting or through a shared moment online. If that's not possible, be sure to share a confirmation or receipt with everyone, so the full group can see the impact they made and celebrate it together!

To add a personal touch, consider writing a note to the organization letting them know this donation came from your youth-led giving circle. It's a great way to celebrate your group's effort and show that young people care and take action for causes they believe in.



What's Next?

Celebrate + Reflect

Congratulations—you did it! You brought people together, led meaningful conversations, made a collective decision, and gave back to a cause you care about. That's something to be proud of!

Group Reflection Questions:

- What did we learn about generosity and giving back?
- How did it feel to make a difference together?
- What was our favorite part of being in a giving circle?
- What's something we'd do differently next time?
- How do we want to keep being generous—together or on our own?
- How has this experience changed the way we think about making a difference?

Personal Reflection for the Facilitator (That's You!):

- What did I learn by leading this giving circle?
- What am I proud of?
- What's one thing I'd do differently next time?
- How did I grow as a leader during this experience?
- How did it feel to help others find their voice and make an impact?
- How do I want to continue practicing generosity?

Write down your reflections here:



Share Your Story

Don't keep your impact a secret—inspire others by sharing what your giving circle accomplished! Post about it on social media, talk about it at school, or present your project to a community group.

You can also pass along this guide and curriculum to others who might want to start their own circle. The more we share, the more generosity spreads.

Thanks for being a leader in generosity. You're helping build a better world—one conversation, one donation, and one act of kindness at a time.

Keep the Momentum Going!

Just because your giving circle meetings are complete doesn't mean the generosity has to stop. Here are some meaningful ways you and your group can continue making an impact:

- **Keep your giving circle going!** Start a second round and choose a new nonprofit to support.
- **Support causes in new ways.** Volunteer together, host a fundraiser, or plan a service project connected to the issues you discussed.
- **Mentor others.** Help another group of young people start their own giving circle—you've got experience now!
- **Stay connected as a group.** Keep in touch through group chats, regular check-ins, or social media so you can continue to inspire and support each other's generosity.



Action Items

Planning & Preparation

- Clarify your "why"
- Assemble a team to help you lead
- Choose your meeting dates and times
- Decide on your meeting format and locations
- Set the donation contribution expectations
- Decide how you'll collect the donations

Participant Outreach

- Create outreach materials to help you find participants
- Set up a communication channel to contact your participants
- Outreach participants and invite them to sign up

Curriculum & Materials

- Review and adapt the curriculum to fit your group's needs
- Gather and prepare any materials needed for each meeting
- Send out a full meeting schedule and calendar invites in advance

Meetings

- Use the curriculum to guide each session
- Send the pooled donation using the chosen method
 - (Optional) Send a message to the organization you supported
- Celebrate and reflect on the experience as a group

What's Next?

- Discuss how you as a group want to continue to engage in the future
- Share this guide with your group so they can lead their own giving circles in the future
- Share this guide with others to inspire others to start their own giving circles
- Continue making the world a more generous place!



Curriculum



How to Use This Curriculum

The following pages include the full curriculum for the four giving circle meetings, each designed to last about 60 minutes.

You can choose to follow the curriculum exactly as written or make it your own! *Suggested scripts are in blue italics* to help guide you—but feel free to adapt the language so it sounds natural and authentic to you. The most important thing is to keep the core content and goals of each meeting intact, while making the experience feel relevant and engaging for your participants.

Meeting Cadence + Topics

- ◆ **Meeting 1:** Introduction to Giving Circles + Generosity
- ◆ **Meeting 2:** Exploring Values + Nonprofits
- ◆ **Meeting 3:** Presentations + Group Discussion
- ◆ **Meeting 4:** Decision + Next Steps

Meeting 1

Introduction to Giving Circles + Generosity

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Other Logistics:	

Objectives

- Build trust and group connection
- Introduce the concept of giving circles
- Explore what generosity and philanthropy mean
- Share an overview of the next three meetings

Recommended Materials

- Tech to play video on
- Pencil/paper (in-person)
- Nametags or nameplates (in-person)

Pre-Meeting Steps

- 2+ weeks before
 - Send invite to meeting 1
 - Review and modify curriculum for meeting 1 as needed
- 1-2 weeks before
 - Gather/create any materials needed for meeting (e.g. *snacks, powerpoint, pencils, etc.*)
- 2 days before
 - Send reminder to participants + parents/guardians about meeting, including anything they may need to bring (e.g. *pencil, water, etc.*)

Meeting 1 Agenda

Welcome + Attendance (5-10 min)

- Welcome participants into the space and let them get settled
- Take attendance as people arrive so you can follow up with anyone who missed the meeting
- Ask people to rename themselves (for virtual meetings) or use a name tag (optional for in-person meetings)
- Share any other details people should know (e.g. where the restrooms are, if they can eat/drink in the space, where they can find a snack, etc.)

Introduction + Warm-Up (10-15 min)

- Introduce yourself: share your name, pronouns (optional), and a little bit about yourself
- If you have an adult supervisor supporting you, have them introduce themselves
- Warm-Up: Choose one of these suggested activities to help people get to know each other, or add in your own warm-up!

In-Person Option: Speed Friending

- Have everyone pair up.
- Each pair gets 45 seconds to introduce themselves and answer a fun question that you will read aloud.
- After time's up, have everyone rotate to a new partner and answer a different question.
- Keep going until most people have met each other.
- Example questions to ask during each round:
 - What's your favorite thing to do in your free time?
 - What's the last great book you read or show you watched?
 - What's a song you've had on repeat lately?
 - If you had a superpower for one day, what would it be?

Virtual Option: Two Truths and a Lie

- Each person takes a turn sharing two true things about themselves and one lie.
- The group guesses which one is the lie.
- After everyone has guessed, the person reveals which one wasn't true.

Meeting 1 Agenda

Overview + Expectations (5 min)

- Leader to explain why they're here: *We're here in this group to learn about generosity and to support a worthy cause. In a little bit I will share more about what a giving circle is and what we're going to be doing during the next four meetings. But first, let's set some expectations about how we want to operate as a group. What group norms do we want to set so you feel comfortable in this space?*
 - Invite participants to contribute their ideas
 - Recommended for a volunteer to write these down
 - Examples include: treat everyone with respect, be open-minded, don't interrupt people, etc.
- *Thank you for sharing. We want to make this a space where everyone feels comfortable to participate and feels respected, and these group norms will help us do that.*

What is a Giving Circle? (15 min)

- *Does anyone know what a giving circle is? Has anyone participated in one before?*
 - Listen to responses and acknowledge answers
- **Share the definition of a giving circle:**
 - Optional 2 min [video](#)
 - *A giving circle is a group that gets together to pool their money and decide together where to donate it. They research causes, talk about what matters to them, and make a shared decision on where to donate their money.*
 - Example giving circle: *[This group](#) of 70 teenagers in New York got together and each brought \$100 to donate. They were able to donate \$7,000 to a nonprofit they collectively chose called Day One, which focuses on teenagers facing domestic violence.*
 - *You all have each generously agreed to donate money to be a part of this giving circle, and at the end of this, we will be choosing a cause to donate \$_____ to.*
- **Discuss:** *Why might giving as a group feel different than giving alone? What made you interested in joining a giving circle?*
 - Listen, acknowledge, and summarize ideas

Meeting 1 Agenda

How Will This Work (5 min)

- Explain what will happen in each meeting:
 - Meeting 2: Discuss values and how to research nonprofits. Then research a nonprofit on your own time
 - Meeting 3: Pitch your nonprofit and narrow down choices
 - Meeting 4: Final vote and discussion of other ways to give back

My Generosity Experience Activity (12 min)

- *Take a few minutes to think about one moment that stood out to you — big or small — when you felt the impact of generosity. Maybe someone helped your family, maybe you helped a friend, or maybe you saw a community rise up to support someone. Write down the story, how it made you feel, and what impact it had.*
- Give ~3 minutes for people to think and write.
- **Share out:** Participants to share stories and focus on asking them how it made them feel and what impact it had on them (can be in small groups or large group)
- **Discuss:** *Did you notice any themes in your experiences?*
- Thank everyone for sharing

Closing (3 min)

- *Next meeting we will talk more about why we give and our values related to generosity. Before the next meeting, I want everyone to start thinking about some of the causes they care about and any organizations they're interested in supporting. It could be one you have supported in the past or a new one that you discover.*
- Share details of the next meeting (date, time, location, etc.)
- Thank everyone for joining!

Meeting 2

Exploring Values + Nonprofits

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Other Logistics:	

Objectives

- Connect personal values to giving
- Explore causes
- Learn how to evaluate nonprofits
- Begin prep for presentations

Recommended Materials

- Whiteboard or poster paper + large writing utensil (virtual whiteboard for online meeting)
- Nametags or nameplates (in-person)
- Values worksheet (printed or digitally fillable)

Pre-Meeting Steps

- 2+ weeks before
 - Send invite to meeting 2
 - Review and modify curriculum for meeting 2 as needed
- 1-2 weeks before
 - Gather/create any materials needed for meeting (e.g. *snacks, powerpoint, pencils, etc.*)
- 2 days before
 - Send reminder to participants + parents/guardians about meeting, including anything they may need to bring (e.g. *pencil, water, etc.*)

Meeting 2 Agenda

Welcome + Attendance (5 min)

- Welcome participants into the space and let them get settled
- Take attendance as people arrive so you can follow up with anyone who missed the meeting
- Ask people to rename themselves (for virtual meetings) or use a name tag (optional for in-person meetings)
- Share any other details people should know (e.g. where the restrooms are, if they can eat/drink in the space, where they can find a snack, etc.)

Warm-Up: Word Web (5 min)

- Write the word 'giving' on the board
- Ask: *What words do you associate with 'giving'? Say one word that comes to mind.*
 - Let people shout out words and write them on the board as they do
- *Keep shouting out any words you associate with any of the words written on the board.*
 - Write down words as people shout them out so you have a web or cluster of words
- Debrief: *Look at how vast giving is. It's not just money, it can be so many other things and it affects so many different areas of life.*

Values, Issues + Causes Activity (35 min)

- Intro: *As part of this giving circle, we will be researching nonprofits to consider giving our donation money to. Before we research those, we are going to talk about how to choose nonprofits to support, based on the things that we value.*
- Hand out the values worksheet and tell them to only look at the side with the values for now (do not look at the page with the triangle yet)
 - Note: A printable version is linked [here](#).

Meeting 2 Agenda

Values, Issues + Causes Activity (35 min)

- **Values (5 min)**

- Ask participants to circle or write down their top 5 values. They can write in other values that aren't listed on the worksheet too.
- **Share out:** Ask volunteers to share a few of their top ones and why they value those most. You can also ask them to put them in the chat or have everyone write theirs on the board.
 - Ask the group if they noticed any themes as people were sharing their top values.

- **Issues (5 min)**

- Now ask participants to write down the biggest 3-5 issues facing society today in the box labeled 'issues.' These can be issues they see in their specific community, country, or in the world.
- **Share out:** Ask participants to share out 1-2 of the top issues they feel are affecting the world today.

- **Causes (5 min)**

- Now ask participants to brainstorm causes they care about. A cause is a movement, effort, or organization working to address an issue. For example, planting trees or the World Wildlife Fund. These could be causes they have supported in the past, ones they have heard of, or maybe ones they don't know exist but they would like to see. They don't have to be real nonprofits, but they can be. They will write them in the cause section.
- **Share out:** Ask participants to share some causes they care about.
- *Now flip to the back of the worksheet. Write down your top few values next to the word values, your top causes next to the word causes, and your top issues next to issues. We are going to start to look at how all of these things connect.*

Meeting 2 Agenda

Values, Issues + Causes Activity (35 min)

- **Values + Issues (5 min)**

- *Focus just on your values and issues first. Do you see a tie between your values and the issues you believe are most prominent? Do these issues disrupt any of your values? For example if growth was one of your values and food insecurity was one of the issues you see, these are connected because food insecurity can disrupt people from growth, both physically and mentally.*
- *In the space between values and issues, write down any connections you see. It's ok if there aren't any obvious ones.*
- **Share out:** *What links do you see between your top issue areas and values?*

- **Causes + Values (5 min)**

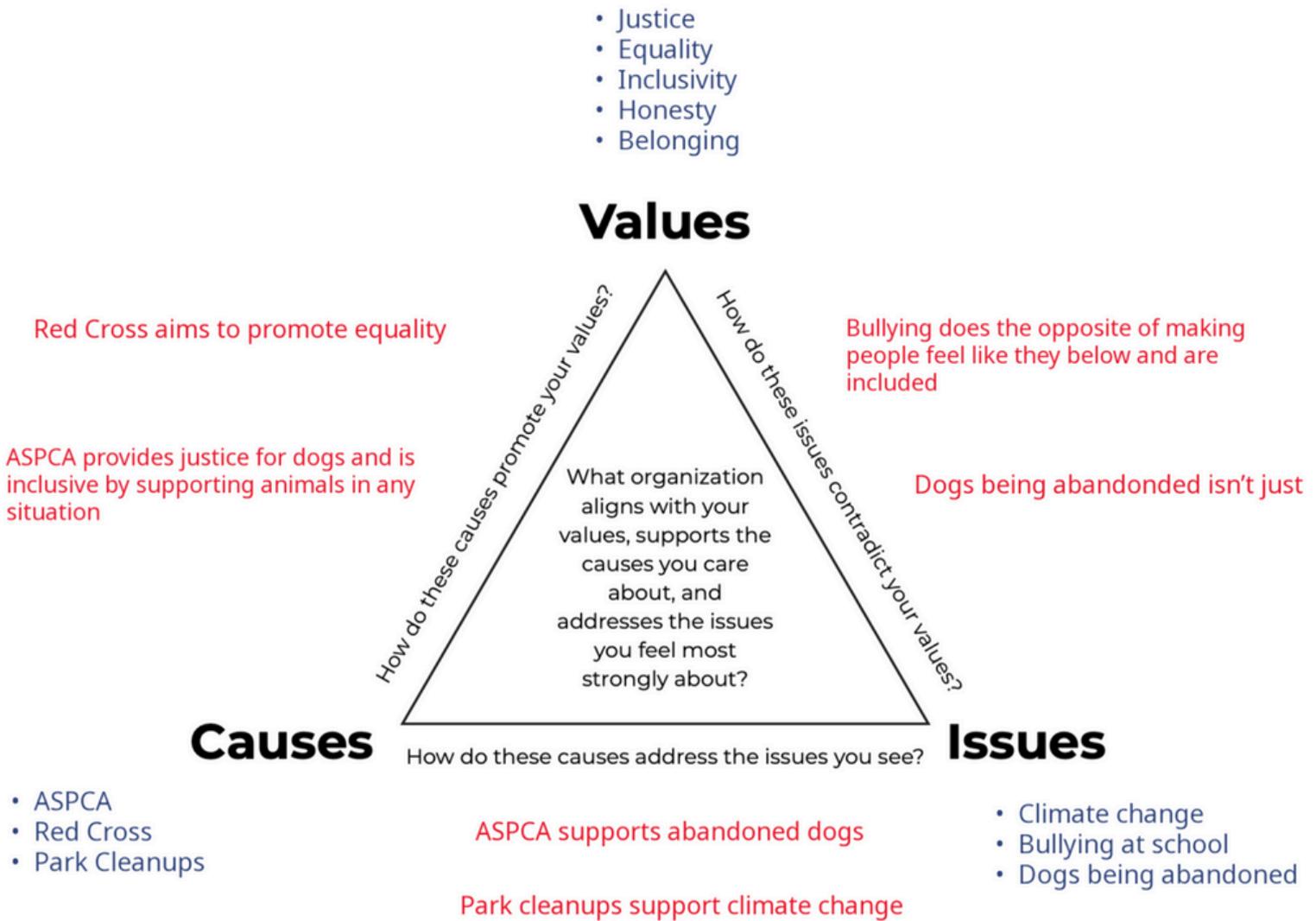
- *Now look at your causes and values. In the space between those words, write down how your values connect to the causes you care about. How do these causes promote your values. For example, if community was one of your values and an organization that helps people who are unhoused is a cause you care about, those are connected because that organization helps people and strengthens the overall community.*
- *In the space between causes and values, write down any connections you see. It's ok if there aren't any obvious ones.*
- **Share out:** *How do these causes connect to your values?*

- **Causes + Issues (5 min)**

- *Finally, look at your causes and issues. Do the causes you care about relate to the issues you see in your community? For example, if poverty is an issue you see in your community and destigmatizing mental health is a cause you care about, these are connected because one can lead to the other.*
- *In the space between causes and issues, write down any connections you see. It's ok if there aren't any obvious ones.*
- **Share out:** *How do these causes relate to the issues you see?*
- **Note:** A sample, completed exercise is shown on the next page.

Meeting 2 Agenda

Below is a sample of how the values worksheet looks when it is filled out.



Meeting 2 Agenda

Values, Issues + Causes Activity (35 min)

- **The Middle (5 min)**

- *Finally, think about what would be in the middle of your triangle. This would be an organization that supports your values, is connected to a cause you care about, and addresses an issue you see in your community. You don't have to have the answer now, but take a few minutes to think about what you would like that organization to be. It doesn't have to be a real organization, just brainstorm what your perfect organization would be doing, and then you can research later to see if that exists.*
- *This exercise is designed to help you start thinking about what nonprofit you want to recommend the group support. Your organization does not have to perfectly match everything in your triangle, but it may be helpful to reflect back on these things as you narrow down which organization you think we should support with our donation.*
- *One other factor to consider is the location of the nonprofit. You can nominate a local, regional, national, or international organization. When you present your organization, share why their impact location matters and why our group specifically should consider it.*

Nonprofit Research (7-12 min)

- *Now that you've started to think about what type of organization you want to support, you will need to do some research on organizations that do that work.*
- *When researching organizations, make sure to look at these things:*
 - *Who they help*
 - *How they use donations (look for transparency about their spending)*
 - *What impact will the donation have (look for stories and data on their impact)*
 - *Are they a registered nonprofit / NGO (your country may have a specific tax designation for organizations that are)*

Meeting 2 Agenda

Nonprofit Research (7-12 min)

- **Search Tools**

- As the leader, you should research some platforms and tools to research nonprofits in your country (e.g. GlobalGiving) and share these with the group. You may want to do a demonstration of how to use these websites.

- **Pitch**

- *Before the next meeting, you are going to research organizations and choose one that you want to nominate for our giving circle.*
- *You will deliver a short 2 minute pitch about what organization you chose, what they do, how our donation will help them, and why our group should choose to support them. The group will then have 1 minute to ask you questions. Any questions?*

Practice Pitch (5 min - if time allows)

- *To get a feel for what these pitches will be like, we are going to do practice pitches on each other.*
- Pair people up and have them give a practice pitch sharing why we should give an award to their favorite (candy, TV show, restaurant, etc. - you pick the topic). The pitch should include:
 - What their choice is
 - Why they chose it
 - Why they think it deserves the group award

Closing (3 min)

- Thank everyone for joining
- Remind them to research a nonprofit organization and come prepared with a 2 minute pitch

Meeting 3

Presentations + Group Discussion

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Other Logistics:	

Objectives

- Share nonprofit choices
- Reflect on nonprofit research process
- Start narrowing down nonprofit options

Recommended Materials

- Pencil/pen and paper (in-person)
- Note-taking sheet: printable or digitally fillable for each person
- Voting platform:
 - In person, you can have people vote on slips of paper that you tally
 - Virtually, you can use Zoom polls, Mentimeter, or another voting platform. Make sure people are able to vote for multiple options on the platform

Pre-Meeting Steps

- 2+ weeks before
 - Send invite to meeting 3
 - Review and modify curriculum for meeting 3 as needed
- 1-2 weeks before
 - Gather/create any materials needed for meeting (e.g. *snacks, powerpoint, pencils, etc.*)
 - Decide on voting platform
- 2 days before
 - Send reminder to participants + parents/guardians about meeting including anything they may need to bring (e.g. *pencil, water, etc.*)

Meeting 3 Agenda

Welcome + Attendance (5 min)

- Welcome participants into the space and let them get settled
- Take attendance as people arrive so you can follow up with anyone who missed the meeting
- Ask people to rename themselves (for virtual meetings) or use a name tag (optional for in-person meetings)
- Share any other details people should know (e.g. where the restrooms are, if they can eat/drink in the space, where they can find a snack, etc.)

Warm-Up: Picture Generosity (5 min)

- *On a piece of paper (or white board), draw the image or symbol that comes to mind when you think of generosity*
- **Share out:** *Discuss what you drew and why*

Research Reflection (5 min)

- *Before we get to the presentations, I want to hear how the experience was of doing your research.*
 - *Was it easier or more difficult than you thought?*
 - *Did you find any new organizations you hadn't heard of?*
 - *How did you narrow down your choice?*
 - *Did your values play a role in your decision?*

Presentations (35 min)

- Each person presents their nonprofit in 2 minutes + 1 minute for questions (timing can be adjusted based on the group size)
- Use a timer to keep people on track
- Participants should take notes on presentations using the note taking sheet
- *Thank you everyone for the time you put into doing your research and for the thought that you put into your presentation. We are not going to have an in-depth discussion today about the organizations. We are just going to vote to narrow them down. Next meeting we will discuss them more in-depth and decide on the one we want to support.*

Meeting 3 Agenda

Vote (7 min)

- *Before we vote, does anyone have any last comments or questions (e.g. values you want the group to consider, things we should remember)?*
- *You are going to vote for your top 3 choices. You do not have to rank them, just list your top 3. The top 3 organizations (or 4 if there's a tie) that get the most votes are the ones we will discuss next week.*
- *Remember: This is about the organization, not the person that presented it. These are all worthy causes, and this is not a competition about your organization winning. We are selecting the one that we feel most connected to and that will make the most impact with our collective donation.*
- Voting
 - Vote using your chosen voting platform
 - Make sure the votes are anonymous
 - Write in the organization names rather than the participants' names (the voting is not about the participants, it's about the organization)
 - If there's a huge tie with more than 3-4 orgs, do a second vote on those top ones
- Announce top organizations

Closing (3 min)

- *Thank you again for your thoughtful presentations. Before our next meeting, take some time to do additional research on the top organizations. At the next meeting, we will discuss these organizations and vote on which one we want to support.*
- *Bring your note-taking sheets with you to the next meeting and add any additional notes about the top nonprofits so you have them as a reference.*
- Share details of the next meeting (date, time, location, etc.)

Meeting 4

Presentations + Group Discussion

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Other Logistics:	

Objectives

- Participants discuss values, causes, and nonprofits
- Group selects one nonprofit to receive the donation
- Participants learn other ways they can give back
- Participants learn how they can lead their own giving circle

Recommended Materials

- For virtual: whiteboard or other platform that allows annotation
- Voting platform:
 - In person, you can have people vote on slips of paper that you tally
 - Virtually, you can use Zoom polls, Mentimeter, or another voting platform. Make sure people are able to vote for multiple options on the platform

Pre-Meeting Steps

- 2+ weeks before
 - Send invite to meeting 4
 - Review and modify curriculum for meeting 4 as needed
- 1-2 weeks before
 - Gather/create any materials needed for meeting (e.g. *snacks, powerpoint, pencils, etc.*)
- 2 days before
 - Send reminder to participants + parents/guardians about meeting, including anything they may need to bring (e.g. *pencil, water, etc.*)

Meeting 4 Agenda

Welcome + Attendance (5 min)

- Welcome participants into the space and let them get settled
- Take attendance as people arrive so you can follow up with anyone who missed the meeting
- Ask people to rename themselves (for virtual meetings) or use a name tag (optional for in-person meetings)
- Share any other details people should know (e.g. where the restrooms are, if they can eat/drink in the space, where they can find a snack, etc.)

Warm-Up: Human Barometer (10 min)

- Setup:
 - In-person: Designate one side of the room as 'strongly agree' and the opposite side as 'strongly disagree'
 - Virtual: Draw a line on a whiteboard with this spectrum and have them annotate where they fall on the spectrum
- *I'm going to read a statement about giving and generosity. You'll move to the spot on the spectrum that shows how much you agree or disagree. There are no right or wrong answers.*
- Suggested statements: Pick 3-4
 - You have to be rich to make a real difference.
 - Giving your time is more valuable than giving money.
 - Everyone has something they can give, no matter their age.
 - People should always give anonymously.
 - Helping one person can be just as meaningful as helping many.
 - If a nonprofit spends a lot on staff or administrative costs, it's not a good organization.
 - Giving money is the most effective way to help others.
 - Helping people in my community feels more meaningful than helping people far away.
 - People give just to look good or boost their reputation.
 - Teenagers can be just as generous as adults.
- After everyone has moved, ask 1 person from each end, or the middle, to explain their thought process. Have a short discussion about it.
- Thank everyone for participating and sharing their perspectives.

Meeting 4 Agenda

Discussion (15 min)

- Open discussion on the top 3 organizations from last week
- *We are now going to open the floor to a discussion on the top three organizations. This is not just to convince each other of our top cause, but to ask questions of each other, gain new perspectives, and consider things we haven't. For example, what cause makes sense for our group? What new information did you learn about the organizations? What impact do we want to see? What will this money mean for that organization?*
- Help guide the group with questions if they're not speaking up.
Sample guided questions:
 - Where will our money have the most impact?
 - What location is important to us?
 - What issue is more pressing?
 - Does one of these causes fill a bigger gap than the others?
 - What change do we want to see as a result of our giving?
 - Which option feels most aligned with our shared values?

Vote (5 min)

- Vote using your chosen platform but do not announce the winner yet

Now What? (10 min)

- *You all just took part in a really exciting form of giving and helped a real organization. What other ways can we give back that don't require money? There are so many forms of non-monetary giving we can do. Can you think of any?*
 - Let people respond (volunteering, acts of kindness, advocacy, sharing knowledge, etc.)
- Share examples of ways you give back or examples of how others are giving back.

Meeting 4 Agenda

Introduce GivingTuesday (10 min)

- *We just talked about some ways we can give back. GivingTuesday is a great opportunity to take action and be generous.*
- What is GivingTuesday?
 - *GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement where people come together to support causes they care about. It is a year-round movement but the big celebration of GivingTuesday happens every year in November or December. This year it falls on December 2nd.*
- How can you participate?
 - *Anyone can participate in GivingTuesday by doing something kind, donating, volunteering, or just helping someone in your community. You do not have to register your project or sign up, you just need to do something generous.*
 - *Share examples of what people do on GivingTuesday.*
 - *You can also plan something like this for GivingTuesday, or participate by giving back in some other way.*
 - *You can also run your own giving circle! There's a full curriculum online, or you can design your own. You can do this for GivingTuesday or any time of year.*
- Does the group want to plan something for GivingTuesday?
 - *We can also all plan something to do together for GivingTuesday. Are you all interested?*
 - *Brainstorm and make a plan to regroup on the plans.*

Announcement + Closure (5 min)

- Thank everyone for participating
- Make the announcement about which organization was selected!
- Congratulate everyone and celebrate
- Follow-up about any next steps to plan something for GivingTuesday or some way the group wants to come together to support one of the causes you learned about
- Share the '[Guide to GivingTuesday](#)' and this guide with participants.



You Did It!



You've ready to launch your youth giving circle and spark real impact! Remember, this is bigger than just getting together—it's about building community, raising up voices, and proving how powerful generosity can be when it's led by young people.

Your giving circle is part of something much larger: a global movement of youth leaders showing the world that generosity starts now. Your voice, your leadership, and your generosity are making ripples that will spread way beyond your group.

Not go out there and SPARK CHANGE!